## REMARKS

There remains pending in this application Claims 1-26, of which Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, and 25 are independent. No claims have been added or cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Independent Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Kasahara (U.S. Patent No. 4,864,461). Claims 1-21 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over various combinations of Kasahara '461, Kasahara (U.S. Patent No. 5,202,179), Takeuchi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,543), and Miyaguchi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,014). Those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Turning first to the absorption belt as defined in independent Claims 1 and 2, the Examiner will appreciate that each of those claims has been amended to recite that the plurality of electrodes is embedded alternately with positive and negative in the insulating layer. Thus, as now recited in each of Claims 1 and 2, the first electrodes are embedded in the insulating layer. As a result, the leakage current between adjacent electrodes can be reduced by the insulating layer between those electrodes so that deterioration of the belt resulting from the presence of the leakage current is reduced and an increase in the power consumption caused by leakage current can be prevented.

The primary reference applied against Claims 1 and 2 is Kasahara '461. However, Kasahara '461 is not understood to teach or suggest that the electrodes are embedded in the insulating layer or that the first absorption layer directly covers the plurality of electrodes and the insulating layer. Applicants also respectfully submit that neither of the secondary

references applied against Claims 1 and 2, namely Kasahara '179 or Takeuchi, et al. meet the above shortcomings of Kasahara '461. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 2 are distinguishable over the applied art.

Each of independent Claims 7, 8, 9 and 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Takeuchi, et al. in view of Kasahara '179. Each of these rejections, is respectfully traversed.

Each of independent Claims 7, 8, 9, and 15 is directed to a method and incorporates the step of winding an insulating layer sheet on a base layer sheet, the insulating layer sheet having a plurality of openings, and the step of disposing an electrode sheet with respect to each of the openings of the insulating layer sheet. It is respectfully submitted that such features are neither taught nor suggested by the applied art. More specifically, Takeuchi, et al. is understood only to disclose the winding of an aluminum foil on a film and then winding a film on the aluminum foil. Takeuchi, et al. does not teach or suggest disposing the electrode sheet with respect to each of the openings of the insulating layer sheet. Kasahara '179 is directed merely to an electrostatic attracting sheet which is used in a paper sheet-attracting device of x-y plotter or the like. Kasahara '179 is not understood to satisfy the above-discussed shortcomings of Takeuchi, et al.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest the invention as recited in Claims 7, 8, 9 and 15.

Each of independent Claims 11 and 17 has been amended in the same manner as Claims 1 and 2 above, namely to expressly recite the plurality of electrodes embedded alternately with positive and negative in the insulating layer at a predetermined interval. Thus,

by this arrangement, the leakage current between each adjacent electrode can be reduced by the insulating layer between the electrodes and the deterioration of the belt resulting from the presence of leakage current as well as an increase in power consumption can be prevented, while still maintaining a satisfactory attraction. For reasons noted above with respect to Claims 1 and 2, independent Claims 11 and 17 are likewise considered patentable over the art of record.

The invention as featured in independent Claim 20 is directed to a method which includes the steps of providing an insulating layer sheet having a plurality of openings and disposing an under-electrode layer sheet, an electrode sheet and an absorption layer sheet in each of the openings of the insulating layer sheet in turn. Accordingly, the electrodes and the absorption layer are disposed in the openings of the insulating layer sheet.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Takeuchi, et al. in view of Kasahara '179. However, neither of those references are believed to teach or suggest the aforementioned features of Claim 20 and therefore Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 20 is patentable over that applied art, whether it is taken individually or in combination.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Kasahara '461. However, Claim 22 as amended recites that the feeding terminals for feeding positive voltage are exposed outside on the side of one of a surface or a back of a belt and that the feeding terminals were feeding negative voltage are exposed outside on the side of the other of the surface or the back of the belt. These features are neither taught nor suggested by Kasahara '461 and therefore it is respectfully submitted that Claim 22 is patentable over the applied art.

Independent Claim 24 is directed to a method which includes the step of providing an insulating layer sheet having a plurality of openings and alternately disposing the first lamination formed and the second lamination formed in the openings of the insulating layer sheet. Applicants respectfully submit that these features are neither taught nor suggested by the applied art and that therefore for at least this reason, Claim 24 is patentable over that art.

Independent Claim 25 recites the features discussed above in connection with Claims 1 and 2, namely first electrodes that are embedded in the insulating layer so that the leakage current between each adjacent electrode can be reduced by the insulating layer between the electrodes. As noted above with respect to Claim 1 and 2, this feature helps prevent deterioration of the belt that results from the presence of leakage current and also reduces the increase in power consumption while still maintaining satisfactory attraction. As noted above with respect to Claims 1 and 2, neither of the applied Kasahara '179 or '461 references teach or suggest these features of Applicants' invention. Accordingly, Claim 25 is believed patentable over the art of record.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to those claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence A. Stahl
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 30,110

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

LAS:eyw

DC-MAIN 179247 v1